

5-14-1979

Administrative Notes, May 14th, 1979

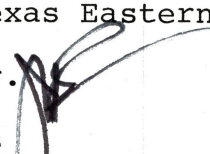
University of Texas at Tyler



TEXAS EASTERN UNIVERSITY
3900 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD • TYLER, TEXAS 75701 • 214/566-1471

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 14, 1979

To: Board of Regents, Texas Eastern University
From: James H. Stewart, Jr. 
Subject: Administrative Notes

I. Analysis of State Auditor's Management Letter, Fiscal Year 1978

Preparation of the usual administrative analysis of the State Auditor's management letter for the fiscal year ended August 31, 1978, which I mentioned in Administrative Notes for April 30, 1979, has now been completed by Vice President John R. Sawyer and this analysis is enclosed for your information. As I reported previously and as reflected in the enclosure, corrective action relative to the auditor's "observations and suggestions" was initiated immediately upon discussion of these items with the State Auditor.

II. Passage of UT/TEU Merger Bill in House

Although each of you has the information about the passage last Saturday morning, May 12, 1979, of S.B. 906/H.B. 1706 in the House of Representatives, I mention it here for the record. Moreover, I mention that Board Chairman Dean W. Turner announced the House action during his address to the 1979 Commencement class Saturday afternoon stating, "I have the high privilege of making what I consider to be one of the most important announcements in the entire history of Texas Eastern University." Following Chairman Turner's announcement of the House action, there was spontaneous and enthusiastic applause from the approximately 2,000 people in attendance. The chairman went on to say, "It is somewhat with a tear in my eye that I announce this significant historical occurrence because it will be the last graduating class of Texas Eastern University." The Consent Calendar vote in the House of Representatives was overwhelmingly in favor of the merger legislation, with only two votes registered in opposition. The opposing votes were registered by Representative Emmett H. Whitehead of Rusk and Representative Bill Haley of Center.

May 14, 1979

You will recall that during the House Higher Education Committee hearing, May 3, 1979, Representative Bill Clark introduced an amendment to the legislation which provides for appropriately placing the institution in the Texas Education Code. The bill now must be returned to the Senate in order for the Senate and House to concur on the change resulting from the amendment. After this has been accomplished, the bill will be sent, of course, to the governor for signature.

III. Legislative Conference Committee Work on Appropriations Bill

The Legislative Conference Committee on Appropriations began work last Friday (May 11, 1979) on the state appropriations bill for fiscal years 1980-81. As the Conference Committee work began, the fundamental challenge facing the committee was to deal with the \$500 million difference which exists between the Senate and House appropriations bills. Along with the general concerns about funding the higher education elements of cost as prescribed by the Legislative Budget Board and Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, a particular concern for our institution, of course, is the \$3 million appropriation for Part B of the Library contained in the Senate bill. This could be a very sensitive issue and perhaps a highly vulnerable item during the time Conference Committee work is in progress. The Conference Committee will likely work until sometime during the week of May 20 through 26, 1979 and leave only a short time for consideration of the appropriations bill by the Senate and House before the session ends on Monday, May 28, 1979. Individuals serving on the Conference Committee include House members, Fred J. Agnich of Dallas, W. S. "Bill" Heatly of Paducah, Bill Presnal of Bryan, Don Rains of San Marcos and Robert Valles of El Paso; and Senate members, Tom Creighton of Mineral Wells, Ray Farabee of Wichita Falls, Grant Jones of Abilene, William T. "Bill" Moore of Bryan and A. R. "Babe" Schwartz of Galveston. As the Conference Committee work progresses, I will, of course, keep you advised.

IV. Information Concerning Application for College Housing Assistance

In fiscal 1979 the Department of Housing and Urban Development will make available a limited number of low cost loans for college housing assistance. Instructions and application forms from the Department of Housing and Urban Development were received May 3, 1979 by the university staff. Should TEU elect to make application for loan assistance, a very concentrated effort will be necessary to complete the

May 14, 1979

application by the deadline of June 15, 1979.

On May 7, 1979 I discussed in a summary manner with Regent H. J. McKenzie, chairman of the Campus and Building Committee, requirements for filing the application. During this discussion, Regent McKenzie gave approval for the staff to begin internal work on the application and to seek information about architectural assistance from Geren Associates Architects Engineers Planners, subject to further consideration of the matter by the Campus and Building Committee and the Board of Regents. After contacting Preston Geren about this matter and determining that the Geren firm is well aware of the requirements concerning projects of this nature, I communicated this information to Regent McKenzie on May 11, 1979.

Under the HUD loan program, a limited number of loans will be made available for new construction of student housing for the purpose of alleviating current and severe shortages of student housing at selected universities. Loans will be made at an interest rate not to exceed 3 percent per annum and for periods not to exceed 40 years. The maximum loan any eligible applicant may request is the least of the following: \$5 million, or \$2,500 per full-time student, or \$12,200 per occupant, based on design capacity of the proposed housing. Based on the TEU fall 1978 full-time student enrollment, TEU would qualify for a minimum of \$1,832,500 in loan assistance. Using a design capacity of 150 students times \$12,200, TEU would qualify for \$1,830,000.

In fiscal 1979, HUD will reserve up to 40 percent of total housing assistance funds for institutions having enrollment of 5,000 or less. For successful applicants, funds will be reserved not later than September 30, 1979. An applicant must represent that within one year from the date of approval of the application construction of the facility for which assistance is granted will be undertaken in such a manner that economy will be promoted and that the facilities will not be of elaborate or extravagant design or materials.

Architectural services will be required by the university in order to provide the following information and plans as a part of the application:

- (1) Project cost data
- (2) Site plan with diagram indications showing

May 14, 1979

- building relationship, utility service lines, access roads, and parking
- (3) Vertical sections through site, if the topography requires studies
- (4) Dimensioned, small-scale line drawings of principal floor plans delineating categories of space and indicating the design capacity of the facility
- (5) Outline specifications indicating type of construction, type of mechanical, electrical and fixed equipment

Based upon my May 7 and 11 discussions of this matter with Regent McKenzie, the Geren Associates Architects Engineers Planners firm has been requested to provide an estimate of the cost of the required architectural services by Wednesday, May 16, 1979.

Because of the relatively small amount of federal funds available in 1979 (approximately \$95 million nationally) for college housing loans, there is no assurance that an application will be approved for funding. However, in view of the fact that TEU has a serious need for student housing and that HUD loans provide one of the better means for financing such projects, it seems reasonable that consideration should be given to taking advantage of the opportunity of submitting application for housing assistance. Provided the Campus and Building Committee and Board of Regents agree that an application should be submitted, the staff must be specifically authorized by the Board of Regents to file the application.

V. Preliminary Commendation from Southern Association Committee

In a preliminary communication about the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Visiting Committee work on the Texas Eastern University campus, March 4-7, 1979, Committee Chairman Harold B. Crosby has emphasized again the fact that our institution performed all responsibilities associated with the accreditation reaffirmation effort in a thorough manner and has extended commendation to the entire university community--the Board of Regents, administration, faculty, staff and student body--pursuant thereto. On behalf of the Visiting Committee, Chairman Crosby has communicated the following:

The work of the Visiting Committee was greatly enhanced by the thoroughness with which the University prepared for the visit. The preparation of the Self-Study Report, the physical arrangements, the scheduling of interviews--all were done with unusual care and with unfailing cordiality. The Visiting Committee extends to the President

May 14, 1979

and his entire staff its commendation and its gratitude. In particular, the Committee wishes to express its appreciation to Dr. Gerald Morris, director of the Self-Study, and his extremely efficient secretary.

We are very proud of the Visiting Committee's observations at this point and look forward to receiving the final committee report which, of course, will be shared with each of you.

VI. Report from Resident Engineer

A report from the director of physical plant and resident engineer for the week ending May 11, 1979 will be distributed at the Board of Regents meeting Wednesday, May 16, 1979.

JHS:rc
Enclosure